

**REMARKS**

A Request for Continued Examination was filed on January 7, 2010.

The claims of the referenced application have been amended in accordance with common U.S. Patent Practice. Entry is in order.

Claims 20-27, 29-37 and 39 are pending in the application. Several claims have been amended to better define the claimed subject matter. In particular, claim 39 has been amended to depend on claim 20. Claim 20 has been amended and finds support at pages 8-9 and lines 3-6 of page 12 of the original specification in the present application.

Further to the reason(s) discussed in the Amendment of November 6, 2009, Applicants respectfully submit that the current claims are patentable over the applied art for the reason(s) discussed below.

Wenzel applied by the Examiner discloses in particular pattern matching where curves to be compared are first sampled so to have the same number of points as disclosed at paragraphs [0088-0089].

As amended, the claimed subject matter applies whatever the number of points of the first and second contours to be compared, the pointwise pairing step as claimed resulting in excluding from the evaluation of the proximity of the two contours, those points of the second contour that has not been paired with a point of the first contour. The proximity measure is thus based only on those points of the second contour that have been univocally paired with one point of the first contour. The claimed method enables better discrimination as regards false hypotheses. i.e., when the first contours (image contours) contain interior points or exterior points as disclosed from page 4 line 30 to page 5 line 5 of the original specification of the present application.

Accordingly, the claims are patentable over the applied art.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: January 12, 2010